

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 261555Z JUL 78
FM USLO RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 614
SECDEF/ISA/DSAA/WASH DC IMMEDIATE
JCS (J-5) WASHDC IMMEDIATE
LENFO RUQMRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE 867
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T RIYADH 618

EXDIS

ISA FOR MR. MURRAY

DSAA FOR MR. VON MARBOD

JCS (J-5) FOR MG CLELAND

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MARR, SU, YE, SA
SUBJECT: MILITARY SUPPORT FOR YAR

REF: CHUSMTM 251520Z JUL 78

1. (S) REFTEL REPORTED CONVERSATION BETWEEN CHUSMTM
AND PRINCE SULTAN CONCERNING ATTENDEES AND AGENDA FOR
29 JULY MEETING IN RIYADH AND FOLLOW-ON HIGH-LEVEL
MEETING PROPOSED FOR 6 AUGUST TO REVIEW CONFERENCE
RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. (S) CURRENT PLANNING FOR USG PRESENTATION TO SAG ON 29 JULY
ASSUMES THAT POSITIVE GUIDANCE CONCERNING RECOMMENDED PROGRAM
ELEMENTS WILL BE RECEIVED HERE PRIOR TO 29 JULY. IN THIS CONTEXT
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RIYADH WORKING GROUP PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING BE INCLUDED IN THE
BRIEFING TO SAG.

3. (S) GENERAL. PROGRAM GOALS INCLUDE COUNTERING RUSSIAN INFLUENCE,
SUPPLANTING RUSSIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE YAR, AND PROMOTING
YAR AND REGIONAL STABILITY. THIS IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY ACCELER-
ATING AND IMPROVING THE YAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. GROUP

ENVISIONS AN INCREASED SAG/U.S. PRESENCE IN THE YAR WITH ABOVE ACTIVE U.S. ROLE (INCLUDING SECURITY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION), EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING TEAMS, AND A VISIBLE DISPLAY OF INCREASED YAR DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY. FOR PLAMVING PURPOSES, SHORT TERM HAS BEEN DEFINED AS THOSE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY 26 SEPTEMBER 1978 (YAR NATIONAL DAY); MID-TERM, 1978-1980; AND LONG-TERM, 1981-85.

4. (S) YAR AIR FORCE PROGRAM.

A. SHORT TERM: ESTABLISH AN F-5B TRAINING PROGRAM IN SANA WITH RSAF IPS AND CONTRACTOR MAINTENANCE (FOUR F-5BS FROM SAUDI ARABIA). THESE WOULD BE FLOWN FOR THE NATIONAL DAY PARADE WITH YEMEN PILOTS IN THE FRONT SEAT, RSAF IPS IN THE REAR SEAT. WE WOULD ENVISION ACCELERATED DELIVERIES OF ADDPPIONAL HELICOPTERS FROM AUGUSTA BELL. IN ADDITION, WE PROPOSE THAT THE USAF SEND AN INVITATION TO THE COMMANDER OF THE YAR AIR FORCE TO VISIT THE CONUS IN THE FALL.

B. MID-TERM: TRAIN YAR AIR FORCE PINAOTS IN THE YAR AND TECHNICIANS IN CONUS. ESTABLISH A LOGISTICS SUPPORT SYSTEM, EXPAND BASE FICI-LITIES AT SANA TO SUPPORT F-5 AND HELICOPTER OPERATIONS (CONSTRUCTION),

AND PROVIDE 12 ADDITIONAL F-5 AIRCRAFT TO THE YAR.

C. LONG-TERM: EXPAND THE PROGRAM IN PROPORTION TO YAR CAPABILITY TO ABSORB ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.

5. (S) YAR ARMY PROGRAM.

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A. SHORT-TERM: ACCELERATE DELIVERY OF 7 VULCANS, 81 MM MORTARS, LAWS, AND 50 CAL MACHINE GUNS. SEND A 9-10 MAN SUPPLY AND MAINTEN- ANCE CONTACT TEAM TO SANA TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE FOR EQUIPMENT ALREADY DELIVERED AND TO ACQUIRE DATA FOR MID AND LONG-TERM EFFORTS.

B. MID- TERM: (THREE BRIGADES). ACCELERATE DELIVERY OF ARTILLERY FIRE DIRECTION AND CONTROL EQUIPMENT. PROVIDE AN INDIRECT FIRE, MOBILE TRAINING TEAM. CONSTRUCT A LOGISTIDS BASE IN-COUNTRY. ESTABLISH AN IN-COUNTRY TECHNICAL TRAINING BASE. INCREASE ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY FYI: GROUP BELIEVES PGKOVISION OF TOW OR DRAGON MAY DECREA SE

THE YAR REQUIREMENTS FOR TANKS, END FYI). INCREASE INFANTRY DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY.

C. LONG-TERM: (SIX BRIGADES REORGANIZED, RE-EQUIPPED, AND RETRAIN- ED). ESTABLISH A CONTRACTOR-OPERATED LOGISTICS SYSTEM. INTRODUCE MECHANIZATION PROGRAM. EXPAND CONUS TRAINING.

6. (S) YAR NAVY PROGRAM (SAUDI PLANS DO NOT CALL FOR MODERNIZATION OF YAR NAVY UNTIL THIRD 5-YEAR PLAN. RIYADH WORKING GROUP BELIEVES MODERNIZATION OF NAVY MUST BE ADDRESSED MUCH SOONER IN ORDER TO REALIZE THE GOAL OF SUPPLANTING RUSSIA MILITARY PRESENCE.)

A. SHORT-TERM: REPRESENTATION BY U.S, NAVY AND ROYAL SAUDI NAVAL

FORCES PERSONNEL AT NATIONAL DAY CEREMONIES.

B. MID-TERM: REPAIR THE THREE U.S.-BUILT PATROL CRAFT (CURRENTLY INOPERABLE) THROUGH SAUDI FINANCED FMS. DEPLOY A U.S. NAVY MOBILE TRAINING TEAM FOR YAR CREW TRAINING. ESTABLISH OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY FOR WESTERN WATER CRAFT THROUGH CONTRACTOR.

C. LONG-TERM: CREW TRAINING THROUGH SAUDI FMS AND A U.S. NAVY TAFT. CONTINUE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE THROUGH CONTRACTOR.

7. (S) OTHER. DURING 29 JULY MEETING, WE PLAN TO DISCUSS THE SAG/YARG PROVIDING AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING FACILITY IN SANA; MOBILE AIR DEFENSE RADARS, EITHER AN/TPS-32 OR AN/TPS-43; THE NEED FOR U.S." ACCESS TO SAG PLANS AND YAR UNITS AND FACILITIES; AND THE NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS SAG FUNDING. PLAN ALSO TO POINT OUT THE NEED FOR A YAR MILITARY COMMAND AND CONTROL CAPABILITY AS WELL AS THE NEED TO
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CONSIDER AN ARRANGEMENT TO SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN RUSSIAN-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT ONCE RUSSIA ADVISORS DEPART. FURTHER, WE WISH TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT JOINT WORKING LEVEL GROUP TO TO ASSESS DAILY PROGRESS AS WELL AS A HIGHER LEVEL REVIEW GROUP FOR PERIODIC, REGULAR EXAMINATIONS OF THE OVERALL PROGRAM.

8. (S) RIYADH WORKING GROUP HAS CONSIDERED SEVERAL ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT NOT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR THE YAR. IN THIS REGARD, REQUEST GUIDANCE ON POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLYING YAR WITH TOW, DRAGON, M79 GRENADE LAUNCHERS (79-80 TIME FRAME). GROUP ALSO RECOMMENDS ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF VULCANS, LAW WEAPONS, 81 MM MORTARS, AND 50 CAL MACHINE GUNS. WE RECOMMEND THE VULCANS AND LAWS BE AVAILABLE IN THE YAR FOR THE NATIONAL DAY PARADE. (RECOGNIZE THAT VULCAN MTT AND SUPPORT WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL LATER. VULCAN DELIVERY WOULD REQUIRE A U.S. TEAM TO SUPERVISE UNPACKING AND ASSEMBLY). FDC EQUIPMENT FOR 105MM ARTILLERY TRAINING IS URGENTLY REQUIRED AND HAS HIGH POLITICAL INTEREST. THREE EACH PLOTTING SETS (6675-00-641-3630) FIRE DIRECTION CONTROL SETS (1290-00-299-689\$) AND COMPASS M2 (1290-00-030-4260) HAVE BEEN ADDED TO CSP FMS CASE UBY. USDAO SANA RECOMMENDS ONE EACH OF THESE ITEMS BE SENT BY AIR DIRECTLY TO USDAO, SANA, ALONG WITH AIMING CIRCLE CURRENTLY BEING DIVERTED FROM ARMY STOCK. THIS WILL INSURE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING. EQUIPMENT REQUIRED BY SAG TAFT CURRENTLY IN YAR TEACHING INDIRECT FIRE TECHNIQUES, WITHOUT THIS EQUIPMENT. REQUEST POSITION FOR 29 JULY MEETING ON U.S. ABILITY TO SEND ONE OF EACH ITEM BY AIR WITH VULCANS AND LAWS.
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